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Letter dated 16 April 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 26 March 2013 from Kadré Désiré Ouédraogo, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

Letter dated 26 March 2013 from the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States addressed to the Secretary-General

Re-hatting of the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) to a United Nations stabilization mission

I am writing to express my deep appreciation to you for the proactive stance of the United Nations on the situation in Mali, lately demonstrated by the rapid dispatch of a United Nations fact-finding mission to the country. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has engaged constantly with the United Nations and other key stakeholders on the findings of this mission and shares most of its preliminary conclusions, particularly on the persisting security and institutional challenges, the urgent need to address the logistical and other requirements of the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) and the options for a future United Nations peacekeeping mission.

While ECOWAS keenly awaits your report to the Security Council, as well as the subsequent debate at the Council, on this matter, ECOWAS hereby requests you to strongly recommend the re-hatting of AFISMA into a robust United Nations stabilization mission under an appropriate mandate, as soon as practicable. In addition, ECOWAS requests you to strongly recommend to the Security Council to maintain a parallel force in Mali with the requisite capacity to quickly dislodge any regrouped terrorists or insurgents, alongside the United Nations stabilization force.

It is my humble opinion that this option constitutes the most appropriate formula for stabilizing the security situation in Mali and paving the way for the rapid implementation of the transitional road map, including the conduct of the impending presidential and legislative elections.

On a related matter, I would also like to encourage you to recommend the immediate disarmament of the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) and the deployment of the Malian Defence and Security Forces to Kidal, while urging a disarmed MNLA to seek the resolution of its political grievances within the framework of the National Commission for Dialogue and Reconciliation.

While looking forward to building on the excellent cooperation between ECOWAS and the United Nations on the situation in Mali, I convey to you the expressions of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Kadré Désiré **Ouédraogo**
President of the Commission